

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. - 31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) A ceramic or dental material or dental product comprising a ceramic made of metal oxide powder with a bimodal particle size distribution made from a bimodal metal oxide powder comprising

(a) a first metal oxide powder with a d_{50} value of 0.2 μm to 12 μm and

(b) a second, nanoscale metal oxide powder with a d_{50} value of 10 nm to 300 nm, wherein the size ratio of the d_{50} values of (a) to (b) lies at a maximum of 40 to 1 and the quantity ratio of (a) to (b) is from 0.1 : 99.9 to 99.9 : 0.1,

wherein the ceramic has a crystalline matrix powders are compacted and wherein the metal oxides are selected from one or more members of the group consisting of ZrO_2 , HfO_2 , TiO_2 , and Al_2O_3 undoped or optionally doped with one or more dopants selected from the group consisting of CeO_2 , CaO , MgO , Sc_2O_3 , and Y_2O_3 .

33. (previously presented) The dental product composition of claim 32, wherein the size ratio of the d_{50} value of (a) to (b) lies between 12.4 and 40 to 1.

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) The dental product composition of claim 42-32, wherein a metal oxide includes one or more dopants selected from the group consisting of CeO_2 , CaO , MgO , Sc_2O_3 , and Y_2O_3 .

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)

46. (canceled)

47. (canceled)

48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder composition~~ according to claim ~~47_32, characterized in that wherein~~ the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) is ZrO₂ and is stabilized with 0.5 mole % to 12 mole %, relative to the total amount of a second, nanoscale metal oxide, of another metal oxide.

50. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder composition~~ according to claim 49, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the other metal oxide is 1 mole % to 5 mole % of Y₂O₃.

51. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder composition~~ according to claim 50, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the other metal oxide is approximately 3 mole % of Y₂O₃.

52. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder comoposition~~ according to claim ~~47_32, characterized in that wherein~~ the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) is made by means of a plasma synthesis method.

53. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder composition~~ according to claim ~~47_32, characterized in that wherein~~ the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) has an average particle size in a range of 10 nm to 200 nm.

54. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder composition~~ according to claim 53, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) has an average particle size in a range of 15 nm to 100 nm.

55. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder composition~~ according to claim 54, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) has an average particle size in a range of 40 nm to 50 nm.

56. (currently amended) The ~~bimodal metal oxide powder composition~~ according to claim ~~47_32, characterized in that wherein~~ the bimodal metal oxide powder comprises 5% to

30% by weight, of the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b), relative to the total weight of the bimodal metal oxide powder.

57. (new) The composition of claim 56, wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder comprises 10% to 25% by weight of the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b), relative to the total weight of the bimodal metal oxide powder.

58. (new) The composition of claim 57, wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder comprises about 20% by weight of the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b), relative to the total weight of the bimodal metal oxide powder.

59. (new) The composition of claim 32, produced by a method wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder

(C) undergoes cold isostatic (uniaxial) final compacting or else it is first pre-compacted and then undergoes final compacting or

(C') is subjected to a pre-sintering at a sintering temperature in a range of 300 °C to 1100 °C for a sintering duration in a range of 0.5 to 8 hours.

60. (new) The composition of claim 59, produced by a method wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder

(C) undergoes cold isostatic compacting or

(C') is subjected to a pre-sintering, and

(D) the ceramic obtained in step (C) or the pre-sinter ceramic obtained in step (C') is subjected to sintering.

61. (new) The composition of claim 60, produced by a method wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder

(C) undergoes cold isostatic compacting or

(C') is subjected to a pre-sintering;

(E) the green compact ceramic obtained in step (C) or the pre-sinter ceramic obtained in step (C') undergoes a milling process; and

(D') the milling ceramic obtained in step (E) is subjected to sintering.